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HUGH SCOTT
PENNSYLVANIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 22, 1976

ACTION
is assigned to
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Respectfully referred for such consideration as the attached communication may warrant, and for a report in duplicate to accompany return of enclosure.

By direction of

Hugh Scott

United States Senator

VT

Re: Arrest of Kim Dae Jung by S. Korean Govt.

From: Tokuma Utsunomiya

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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The Afro-Asian Problems Study Group
of
The Liberal Democratic Party

自民党アジア・アフリカ問題研究会

Rm. 776, Dai-ichi Giin-kaikan, Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo-100, Japan
Tel.: (03) 581-4946

March 16, 1976

The Honorable Hugh Scott
United States Senate
Washington D.C., 20510
U.S.A.

Dear Senator Scott,

The Afro-Asian Problems Study Group, composed of 106 Liberal Democratic Party Diet members, has been shocked at the arrest of 20 South Korean patriots and intellectuals, including Mr. Kim Dae Jung, on charges of inciting the overthrow of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

However, their only crime has been to condemn the suppression of democratic freedoms in Korea by President Park Chung Hee and to urge his early retirement.

We have submitted a strong demand to the Japanese Government to make every effort possible to enable Mr. Kim Dae Jung to recover his freedom.

At the same time, we would like to ask you, with your great influence on the present situation in the South Korea, to speak out in opposition to the arrest of the patriots and to work for their early release.

Sincerely,

Tokuma Utsunomiya
Chairman
The Afro-Asian Problems Study Group
of the Liberal Democratic Party

Tokuma Utsunomiya

The Afro-Asian Problems Study Group of The Liberal Democratic Party

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STATEMENT

March 9, 1976

Since peace in the Korean Peninsula is indispensable to the security of Japan, the Japanese people pin great hopes on a dialogue taking place between North and South Korea aimed at bringing about their peaceful unification.

For this reason, we cannot but hope that the two principals involved --- the North and the South --- will avoid mutually provocative words and actions and will adopt postures conducive to the gradual relaxation of tensions.

Japan has not as yet established diplomatic relations with the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. However, in the case of the Republic of Korea, Japan, in compensation for its past colonial rule, has provided South Korea huge amounts of economic cooperation, in the form of grants, with and without strings attached, and government and private loans. Most of this economic cooperation, in the last analysis, comes from the taxes paid by the Japanese people and has as its background the desire of the Japanese people to see the development of democratic politics in the Republic of Korea.

It is, therefore, natural for the Japanese Government, representing the feelings and the interests of the people, to advocate what it must advocate to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

We cannot but feel perplexed and fearful at the way the Government of Korea, by stressing North Korean threats, is strengthening its military dictatorship tendencies and is pursuing a policy of depriving the Korean people of political freedoms which are inherent in a free society as a natural right. As Hitler's failure shows, a policy of strengthening a dictatorship on pretext of a threat from Communism is not in keeping with our modern world.

The Declaration for Democracy and for Saving the Nation adopted on March 1, 1976, is truly a patriotic statement issued by courageous private individuals and intellectuals of the Republic of Korea who are trying to save the political stampede of their nation one step before destruction. It should be listened to with modesty by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

To resort to suppression in replying to this natural, patriotic and liberal statement and to go even to the extent of arresting on the basis of emergency legislation Mr. Kim Dae-jung, whose personal freedom, including the freedom to go abroad, was guaranteed the Japanese Government, (by the Korean Government), are actions which we cannot agree to in any way.

The Japanese people regard the diffident posture of Japan's diplomacy toward the Republic of Korea with great suspicion and suspect it stems from the corrupt relations between Japan and Korea. We request our Government to take a firm attitude toward the Government of Republic of Korea so that these suspicions can be elimineted.

We believe that this is absolutely necessary to long-range friendship and good relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea and between the Japanese and Korean people.